rogramming a disgrace to free society
Controversial 'Deprogrammer' Loses Court Appeal
Jesus communes
Many wary parents nationwide are seeking to save children from them
ughter kidnapped over politics
Let Our Children Go!
Ted Patrick
Citizens Freedom Foundation
CultAwareness

ARTICLES

Deprogramming

Ted Patrick: Kidnapping and History of Violent Deprogramming

December 20, 2024 · 20 mins read

Audio by ElevenLabs
00:00 28:27
15 1.0x 15
||ElevenLabs

"On November 20, 1991, at 8:30 P.M., L.C.M. was violently abducted from her Boise, Idaho house. She had just put her four young boys to bed and changed into her nightgown. Then the doorbell rang. Peering through the front door peephole, she saw a person who appeared to be a pizza delivery man. Earlier that evening, she had ordered a pizza for dinner, but now she assumed the store had made a mistake by delivering a duplicate. She opened the door, she debated with the apparent delivery man that she had not ordered a second pizza, he showed her a forged receipt, then he abruptly grabbed her arm and pulled her towards a van at the curb. According to court documents, 'L.C.M. yelled to her children to call the police. L.C.M.'s son R. tried to call the police, but was unable to because the deprogrammers had disconnected L.C.M.'s phone service.' In front of her terrified children, L.C.M. was dragged out into the street and forced into a van by two men she did not know. She was thrown face-down on the floor, both men on top of her, with their hands over her mouth. Later court records showed she had bruises on her mouth, an arm, and a leg from her abductors' rough treatment."[1]

ho were those people? Murderers? Maniacs? Criminals of the child trafficking market? Numerous versions may appear in

W your head. However, it turned out to be much worse. Those were not just sadists and rapists, but also those who called themselves deprogramming experts and anticultists and actually committed terrible crimes under the guise of fighting cults and protecting people from dangerous sects.

A law-abiding US citizen, a mother of four children, was abducted and forcibly held in three different motels for a week by complete strangers just because of her "unacceptable" religious beliefs, as some self-appointed experts say. This horror beggars the imagination.

"The deprogrammers drove L.C.M. to a remote cabin, dragged her inside, and informed her that her mother had hired them to prevent her from taking her children to a Church Universal and Triumphant shelter in Montana. (It turned out that L.C.M. had no such intention; however, she had been contemplating a family move to Bozeman, Montana, almost ninety miles from the Church Universal and Triumphant headquarters).

At the cabin they were joined by a woman and another man. Then, the next day (with continued rough restraint) they took her to a motel. Here a second woman appeared, ostensibly to counsel her about her dangerous religious affiliation. Then it

was another night drive to another motel, always with her face pinned down on the floor of the van so that she had no sense of where in Boise she was. Each day she was grilled about her religious beliefs in mocking terms, with only brief chances for meals or restroom breaks. Harangued, nervous for her safety and for her children, worn thin, and embittered that a middle-aged woman in the contemporary United States was being imprisoned for her religious beliefs by vigilantes, she still resisted. Then, on November 26, she was moved to yet another motel, continually resisting.

By November 27 the pseudo-therapists let her go. L.C.M. went to the police, several of the deprogrammers fled the state and only returned after government agents tracked them down in New Mexico; the kidnapping defendants tried to claim in court a "necessity" to abduct her for her own good, and they won an acquittal in a lower court. The prosecution appealed. Eventually the deprogrammers agreed to plead guilty to the felony of second-degree kidnapping after the Idaho Supreme Court overturned the acquittal. That was five years after L.C.M. had been kidnapped in front of her children."

It is difficult to imagine the horror that this woman experienced. Before that, she had a calm and peaceful life with its joys and difficulties and a search for her personal innermost meaning. Professing her religion, finding solace and meaning

in it, she sought to become a better person, to work on her flaws and develop in her personal relationship with God. In short, she was merely one of billions of believers worldwide, whatever religion she belonged to. However, anticultists perceived it differently.

Could she have thought that the way she prays or the way she likes to interpret the Bible would be a reason for maniacs to hold her hostage, subjecting her to psychological terror and physical violence for a week, while she didn't know what was happening to her children, whether they were safe at home or kidnapped the same way she was? Did her mother order her grandchildren to be "deprogrammed" too? Would L.C.M. ever see them again?

Yet, it's even scarier to imagine what the children themselves went through when they saw their mother being forcibly pushed into a van and taken away in an unknown direction. Stress, psychological shock and trauma are forever imprinted in the still fragile and susceptible psyche of a little child.

Returning to the excerpt from the article that we'll repeatedly refer to, L.C.M.'s kidnappers were the so-called deprogrammers. Those were people who, for a certain amount of money (according to some sources, amounts vary from 2,000 to 27,000 USD) provided a service that the founders of

deprogramming described as the “exit” of members from small religious associations or other groups branded by deprogrammers as “cults.”

A representative of any community, whether religious or secular, or just a person whose interests are displeasing to a “client,” is abducted, forcibly detained and repeatedly subjected to humiliation, insults, harassment, threats, physical violence, including beatings and rape by some individuals, usually at the expense of the person’s relatives, until the person eventually renounces his or her faith. [2]

Given the dubious reputation of many deprogrammers, in order to disguise their criminal activities, they later adopted new euphemisms for their roles, such as “interventionists” and “exit counselors.” They used such a verbal wrapper because these terms can legitimately be applied to voluntary discussions between members of new religious movements (NRMs) and their families, conducted by a trained counselor, or can simply become a linguistic trick to cover the illegality of their activities.

Of course, in their sources anticultists do not say that the very “exit” from communities isn’t any kind of therapy or “heart-to-heart talk,” but actually a harsh torture of innocent people. The fact that this happens largely with the consent of family

members is a separate moral issue. However, it was precisely anticultists who created a ground and conditions for people to take such inhumane measures against members of their own families. The main question is, how such a monstrous phenomenon as deprogramming, violating all norms of morality and laws, can even exist in a modern free democratic society?

To answer this question, it is necessary to understand how real sadistic maniacs, under the guise of protecting children and families from the allegedly harmful influence of religious groups they branded as cults, in front of the public and law enforcement, started carrying out their criminal activities. Let's go back to the very beginning, namely, to the history of establishment of the official organization of deprogrammers.

USA, 1960s-1970s. The era of cultural change when society was undergoing significant transformations. Many young Americans started moving away from traditional religious institutions in search of new spiritual experiences. That time served as a ground for the emergence of many NRMs, both Christian and non-Christian. College students turned out to be particularly receptive to the new spiritual trends: like researchers, they sought to experience a variety of religious practices and ideas by joining alternative spiritual communities. [3]

Unfortunately, not all parents of those teenagers and young people were ready to accept the new “non-traditional” views of their kids. [4] Many were unprepared for the fact that their children no longer professed religion that their families had practiced for generations. Neither were they prepared for the situation where their children no longer attended the same church they attended, while in conversations kids started using many unfamiliar words and terms more and more often. Parents were unhappy to find out that their children had joined popular spiritual groups which, in their opinion, engaged in strange ritual practices and criticized conventional social institutions. All of that gave rise to family conflicts, misunderstanding, and disagreements.

On that basis, along with the spreading rhetoric about “cults”, local so-called “anticult” parent groups began to be created, such as the Parents’ Committee to Free Our Children from the Children of God (FREECOG) [5], whose mission was to warn society about the dangers of “cults” and save young people from their “paws”, if necessary — by force. Eventually, those local groups established a national organization and formed the Citizens’ Freedom Foundation (CFF) that was later transformed into the Cult Awareness Network (CAN) . [6]

In order to properly convey the scale of the crimes committed by this organization, first of all it is necessary to tell about the

person who created it. Initially, FREECOG, which later transformed into CAN, was created by a man named Theodore Patrick. [7]

Theodore Patrick

Patrick who was called the “father of deprogramming” [8], a self-appointed “expert,” but in reality a semi-literate man with incomplete secondary education [9], a former truck driver, nightclub owner, participant in riots, and later an employee of public social services, became one of the most ardent

American anticult activists and developed a solution, in his opinion, to the problem with American children, adolescents and youth and their participation in the so-called destructive cults. The anticultist proposed to replicate conditions similar to those in the Korean Communist POW camps and force people to change in the opposite direction through capture, control, disinformation, condemnation, and coercion. He called this "procedure" "deprogramming"! [10]

We have managed to find a copy of CFF's printed brochure, and here's how they officially describe their activities: *"Deprogramming and/or exit counseling is counseling a destructive cult member through conversations in a setting where he/she is given time to rest, relax and reflect on his/her objectives and goals.* ***It should be followed by a period of rehabilitation.****"*

CultAwareness CultAwareness CultAwareness

Copy of a page from CFF printed brochure. Photo from the website cesnur.org [11]

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS ... FROM ONE

When a youth becomes involved with a cult, the parents usually go through a period of depression. ***"Where did we go wrong? Where did we fail?"*** are common expressions of parents of cult victims. To hear the cult leaders called **"true parents"** or **"spiritual parents"** or to be relegated to the role of Satan is a devastating experience for parents.

Society throws a large amount of blame on parents. If achievement scores go down, productivity lessens or juvenile crime increases, first blame goes to the schools or the courts. But the blame ultimately falls on the parents. From Freud to the present, the most common explanation for a disturbed adult is sought in something the parents did or did not do.

Parents are important to children and they do influence adult outcome, but the forces to which young people are subjected outside the home and family are tremendous. Cults exploit the unrest of this generation of young people. The deceptive methods of recruitment and intensive indoctrination disrupt the ability to make responsible value judgements and the ability to use one's critical facilities deteriorates.

Researchers have pointed out that the number of gifted, talented, creative youths who fall prey to cults is inordinately high. Perhaps this is because those with talent are burdened with their gifts instead of being rewarded. Perhaps they do not see themselves as gifted and are not inspired to use their lives for personal growth and society's benefit. Whatever the reason, once they become a member of a cult their development is impaired.

Tears shed over our children will not undo the damage. Parents need to overcome their feelings of shame and guilt and join in efforts to counter cult abuses. ***Become involved with organizations such as Citizens Freedom Foundation*** *... become a force to counter the ever-growing destructiveness of the cults.* ***If we do not act, who will?***

DEPROGRAMMING: What do I ask?

One of the main functions of the CITIZENS FREEDOM FOUNDATION is to provide information and support for all those affected by destructive cults. We continually receive requests for information about deprogramming or exit counseling, and the following brief discussion of the subject will be helpful.

Deprogramming and/or exit counseling is counseling a destructive cult member through conversations in a setting where he/she is given time to rest, relax and reflect on his/her objectives and goals. It should be followed by a period of rehabilitation.

To learn about deprogramming, it is helpful to talk with families and ex-cult members who have experienced deprogramming. It is important to select a deprogrammer who can deal with your special situation. You may find the following questions useful in speaking with various deprogrammers/exit counselors.

- Have you deprogrammed individuals from this or similar groups?
- From what groups have you deprogrammed individuals? May we contact them and their families?
- How, when and why did you become involved in deprogramming? What is your background?
- Have you worked with other professionals with whom we can discuss your work?
- What role do you take in the deprogramming? What role does the family take?
- Do you consider the family history? Do you construct a psychological profile of the individual?
- What are your fees? Do they include expenses?, telephone calls?, meetings with the

►►►

Copy of a page from CFF printed brochure. Photo from the website cesnur.org [12]

It's hard to imagine how kidnapping a person, forcibly keeping them in closed rooms, beatings, psychological terror, insults and humiliation may be presented as counseling through conversations in a calm setting where they are given time to rest, relax and reflect!

Hiding behind such wordings, manipulating phrases and convincing people of its unfounded expertise, the organization put on a beautiful wrapper, and everything would have remained that way, but as they say, the Internet remembers everything. Yes, it's not on the surface, but as it turned out, you can still find a lot of evidence of those who survived deprogramming, being incurably and deeply psychologically traumatized, while many even physically injured. These scars never heal, and no matter how much time passes, many of the victims remember the man, whom the media serving anticultism proudly call the father of deprogramming, as a sadist and maniac who once kidnapped them in broad daylight and took them away in a van to an unknown destination.

Going back to Ted Patrick, despite his lack of formal education and any professional training, hundreds of people hired him (usually parents of grown-up children) when they wanted to "deprogram" their family members. Patrick's methods included abduction, physical restraint, confinement for days or weeks in constant presence with the victim, deprivation of food and sleep, prolonged verbal and emotional abuse, and desecration of the victim's articles of faith. [8]

Photo from a Facebook page “Ted Patrick — The Deprogrammer” [13]

Patrick justified his sadistic tendencies by the need to use brutal force to make people admit that they had indeed been brainwashed by so-called “cults” and to detain them until “they convince their overseers — sincerely or out of despair — that they have renounced their faith and have been ‘deprogrammed’.” [4]

Such deprivation of grown-up children of their right to make their own choices in life entailed further spread of forced deprogramming, contrasting dominant parents with their adult offspring. Anticultists took advantage of relationships between parents and children, playing dirty on the family's willingness to pay any money just to force their child to renounce his or her beliefs. Ted Patrick realized that this was his path and a "gold mine." Framing his activities with a beautiful description, such as "counseling on how to exit destructive cults," he organized a successful business of violent kidnappings that brought him sizable income, most of which, however, he later had to use for defending himself during countless litigations initiated by his victims.

Thus, having received criminal charges for his activities, Patrick turned his revenge against the "cults," saving young "victims" on the order of anyone who could afford to pay his exorbitantly high fees. In 1976, Patrick claimed that he had personally participated in more than a thousand deprogramming cases. [14] By 1980, this number increased to over two thousand. [15]

However, victims of the anticultist and his henchmen didn't just include representatives of NRMs. In 1980, Patrick was paid 27,000 USD to deprogram Susan Wirth, a 35-year-old teacher living in San Francisco. He was hired by her parents who

objected to her involvement with activist groups — the "Coalition to Fight the Death Penalty" and the "African People's Solidarity Committee." The process involved four deprogrammers (or "thugs" as Wirth called them) shoving her into a van and gagging her, after which she was handcuffed to a bed for two weeks, denied food and water, and repeatedly threatened. She was later released and after returning to San Francisco spoke out against deprogramming.

Daughter kidnapped over politics

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Friends describe Susan Wirth as committed. Her parents say she is obsessed.

And like some people in religious sects who have been spirited off for deprogramming, Susan Wirth, a local community college teacher, is apparently the victim of a kidnapping, but one with strange twists.

She is a 35-year-old with a Ph D. in Spanish, a widely traveled teacher of English as a second language at a San Francisco community college and active in leftist political causes. She is head of the Coalition to Fight the Death Penalty and a member of the leftist African People's Solidarity Committee.

Friends describe her as a "warm, dynamic, enthusiastic, deeply committed and hard-working woman."

Her father, Clifford Wirth of Lansdowne, Pa., says she is a member of "political cults."

Police report little progress in locating the heavily built, brown-haired woman. They have been working on the case since June 24, when a fellow teacher reported seeing Miss Wirth dragged screaming into a van by two men. They said the van had been rented by her mother, who had told Wirth she was going to California to get their daughter.

Dorothy Ehrlich, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, said the case is the first in memory involving the abduction of a person for deprogramming for political reasons.

"This is an extension of what we consider to be a very dangerous practice," Ms. Ehrlich said. "You can't take action into your own hands.

"These are real people, real families who are estranged. It's always painful," she said. "The question is whether you can condone that way of bringing families back together."

Friends and police believe that by now, Miss Wirth is in the hands of a deprogrammer, a person who commonly works with families whose children have become involved in religious sects. The best-known deprogramming cases involve members of the Unification Church, or Moonies.

Their methods are controversial, and virtually all work underground.

Although police say they don't believe Miss Wirth will be physically harmed, her friends are not so sure.

"The information we've gotten is that they use forcible means to make someone relinquish their beliefs," said Clare Strawn, one of Miss Wirth's roommates, who is also active in political causes. "So we are concerned for her physical safety as well as her mental anguish."

Penny Hess, another friend, said that Miss Wirth had told her she feared being abducted by her parents. "She was very open about the struggles she had with her parents. She had said to me she was really afraid her parents might do something like this," Ms. Hess said.

The friends also expressed fears that police and the FBI might not take the matter seriously, preferring to think of it as a family problem, not a criminal one.

Bill Wieger, a San Francisco police investigator working on the case, said the issue is fraught with legal problems. "Do the parents have the right to take that child and restore he mind to what they think is normal?" he asked.

But said Sgt. Al Matteoni, also working on the case, "She's 35 years old. She's got a Ph.D. You can't say she's incompetent. That is kidnapping."

Police say they are unsure whether Mrs. Wirth, 59, and Miss Wirth are still in the area. Wirth, 60, says he hasn't heard from his wife in about two weeks.

"She was beginning to get a myopic viewpoint and trying to sell this stuff, on the fringe of radical, to anyone who would listen," said Wirth.

Deprogramming a disgrace to free society

By WILLIAM A. RUSHER

NEW YORK — Personally, I've always agreed with Barry Farber's contention that we ought to keep a few liberals around "just for breeding purposes," but the current ridiculous oversupply of this pesky species is a serious problem. They are so numerous that they often manage to elect politicians beholden to them to high public office and, of course, their near-total dominance of the media is common knowledge. What rabbits are to Australia, liberals are to America.

But now comes word of a new, promising solution to this long-standing problem. As so often, it simply involves applying to this new area a technology perfected and long used successfully in another field.

In two words: deprogram them.

Take Dr. Susan Wirth, a professor of English in her mid-30s (with a Ph.D. in Spanish) who was walking one day in 1980 to a class she taught at Alemany Community College Center in downtown San Francisco. Back in Pennsylvania, where she came from, she had helped organize anti-nuclear groups. In San Francisco, she went steadily downhill, joining a thing called the African People's Solidarity Committee and actually becoming chairwoman of the Coalition to Fight the Death Penalty.

But her plucky mother knew just what to do. As Dr. Wirth walked along that San Francisco street, a rented van (later traced to her mother) drove up beside her and two men shoved her inside. More than a month later, in a telephone interview with a reporter, Dr. Wirth stated that there were three more rescuers (she called them "thugs") inside the van. She declared she had been handcuffed to a bed for almost two weeks, gagged and deprived of "food, drink and sleep on occasion," and warned that she would be thrown into a mental institution if she didn't cooperate.

Dr. Wirth identified the noted religious deprogrammer, Ted Patrick, as the leader of this attempt to moderate her political views, adding that his accomplices told her he was charging $27,000 for his services. Sadly, in this case, the cure didn't "take": Dr. Wirth is still a liberal and describes her mother as remorseful. But just imagine the political consequences if only half of such deprogrammings worked!

Nor is politics the only new area in which deprogramming is being tried. There was Stephanie Riethmiller, 20, an Ohio woman whose parents suspected she was having a lesbian affair with the girl with whom she was living. In this case, deprogrammer Patrick was actually indicted along with two other people for kidnapping Miss Riethmiller in front of her home and taking her to Alabama and holding her there for six days, during which one of his co-defendants allegedly made sexual advances to her and raped her — apparently in an attempt to change her mind about homosexuality. The jury, however, acquitted Patrick on all charges, and the other defendants on all but the abduction charges (as to which they couldn't agree), prompting the judge to remark that the verdict "showed a jury will permit their moral evaluations to enter into their legal conclusions."

In other recent cases, deprogrammers have tried, for husky fees, to un-kink the minds of young adults seized with such mental aberrations as affiliation with the (evangelical) Assembly of God Church and the Roman Catholic Church. In one instance, they kidnapped a married couple and successfully deprogrammed the wife but failed with the husband. The marriage was destroyed of course, but that's life.

And now, if I may abandon the ironical mode, let me invite you to share my outrage at this sort of thing. It all began — remember? — a few years back with the efforts of certain foolish parents to deprogram their adult children, whom they believed had been "brainwashed" by the Moonies and other new religions that it pleased the parents to call "cults." Now we are apparently all fair game for any money-grubbing busybody who disapproves of our religious or political or even sexual attitudes. Law-enforcement authorities have been slow to prosecute such cases, because juries are often reluctant to convict. But the episodes discussed above, and others like them, are a disgrace to a free society, and we had better develop a firm resistance to all manifestations of this kind of thing before it becomes a major blot on the American record.

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

1. Screenshot of an article dated May 28, 1983, from The Gadsden Times, archived version [16]

2. Screenshot of an article dated July 2, 1980, from The Beaver County Times, archived version [17]

There was also another case of kidnapping on a non-religious basis. In October 1981, Stephanie Riethmiller was abducted by two men walking to her Cincinnati apartment with her roommate and significant other, Patty Thiemann, who was sprayed with mace. The two men made Stephanie enter a van where she encountered her father, William Riethmiller. Her parents sought to deprogram her from her lesbian relationship with Thiemann, which they believed was making their daughter more distant from them.

Stephanie Riethmiller was driven to Cedar Bluff, Alabama, where she was held against her will and serially raped by James Anthony Roe, a friend of Patrick's son whom Patrick referred to Riethmiller's parents. Patrick also referred Naomi Faye Kelley Goss and a man solely identified as "Ray" to Riethmiller's parents. In Cedar Bluff, Stephanie was held in a cabin where Goss "harangued" her about the evils of homosexuality.

Authorities brought charges of assault, abduction, and sexual battery against Riethmiller's parents, Patrick, Roe, and "Ray," but all defendants either had their charges dropped or were found not guilty in April 1982. Allegedly, Stephanie's parents paid Patrick 8,000 USD to organize Goss, Roe, and "Ray" to deprogram her. [18] [19]

Ala. woman held by cult is sentenced

CINCINNATI (AP) — An Alabama woman, who said she was once in the possession of a "mind control cult," has been sentenced to 20 days in jail for her part in the unsuccessful deprogramming of a Cincinnati woman.

Naomi Goss, 26, of Cedar Bluff, Ala., pleaded no contest in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court to a reduced charge of assault Friday.

A jury last year could not reach a verdict on a charge of abduction.

Mrs. Goss was one of several people accused of abducting Stephanie Riethmiller, 20, in 1981 and taking her to Alabama to deprogram her from her lesbian lifestyle with her roommate. Police from suburban Norwood learned of the effort and went to Alabama to break it up.

Mrs. Goss, famed deprogrammer Ted Patrick, 52, San Diego, and James Roe, San Diego, were hired by Miss Riethmiller's parents, William and Marita Riethmiller. The parents were granted immunity when they agreed to testify for the prosecution.

Patrick was acquitted. Roe later received a 20-day sentence on an assault charge after a jury was unable to reach a verdict on an abduction charge.

Mrs. Goss said she understood the parents' feelings because she had been under a mind-control group and had been deprogrammed by Patrick.

"I only wanted what was best for Stephanie and her family. I did not come to Cincinnati to assault or harm Stephanie," she told Judge Gilbert Bettman.

"I acted because of the desperation of the parents and my desire to be helpful."

Bettman said it was "a foundation in this country" for adults to make up their own minds about what they believe in and to walk the streets safely.

"There was no cult involved in this situation. Stephanie Riethmiller was no child victim. She was an adult who chose to live with a high school classmate," the judge said.

"You talk about your desire to be helpful, but what about Stephanie's desire to walk down the street unmolested?"

Mrs. Riethmiller appeared in court and embraced Mrs. Goss after the decision. She said she believed her daughter's mind was still under the control of her daughter's roommate.

Todd receives award

O.N. Todd (R), immediate past president of the Downtown Tuscaloosa Lions Club, receives the President's Pin from Lions District Gov. Joseph Colquitt. The award is given to club presidents by Lions International for being 100 percent in standards set for president by Lions International. Todd was club president for the 1982-83 year. (News staff photo)

Reserve making changes

The U.S. Naval Reserve is starting a program this fall that will allow young men and women to join the Navy without serving extended periods of active duty.

This month, the Navy launched the Sea-Air Mariner (SAM) Program. Geared toward high school, vocational-tech, and college students, the program allows selected applicants to enlist during the regular school year.

Some candidates will go though boot camp between their junior and senior years in high school. Upon returning to school, they will be required to attend monthly weekend reserve drills in or near their hometowns. After graduation qualified SAM sailors could go to a Navy school or receive additional apprentice training. Reserve drills would then be resumed and one two-week period of active duty for training would have to be scheduled each year. Their obligation would be for six years.

As an inducement to enlist under the SAM program, the Navy will also be offering a limited number of financial bonuses and educational assistance grants. Educational assistance grants of up to $4,000 maximum of $1,000 per year, or an enlistment bonus of up to $2,000 will be offered to selected qualified applicants. Additionally, the program will offer advanced pay rates to volunteers under 26 years of age who already have a skill or type of training by the Navy.

More information may be obtained from Chief Petty Officer Benny Reeves at the Naval Reserve Center in Tuscaloosa or by calling 345-6911 or 758-1080.

Royal gift

NEW YORK (AP) — In 1705, the site that now holds the famous Trinity Church on lower Manhattan's Wall Street area held a farm house and small garden.

The property was owned by Queen Anne, ruler of Great Britain and Ireland until her death in 1714. She gave the property to the island of Manhattan as a gift.

Watt finds friends in Forks

FORKS, Wash. (AP) — Hundreds of supporters wearing "Watt Power" buttons lined the banner-festooned main street of this logging community Saturday, watching the high school band parade by amid blaring sirens for "James Watt Appreciation Day."

Signs of support for Watt among this community of 3,500 were seen in bumper stickers reading "Here Goes Another Friend of James Watt," and the big banner over the main street advertising "Hickory Shirt Days, James Watt Appreciation Day."

The Watt appreciation day was part of Forks' Hickory Shirt Days, which celebrates the logging industry.

Watt, who resigned as secretary of the Interior last Sunday, in a telegram thanked the townspeople of Forks "for having the courage to buck the Eastern media tide and vote your support for the jobs, national security and economic recovery that Interior's program can bring to America."

Watt was invited to attend the celebration when it was planned several months ago, but was unable to attend because of conflicting schedules. He was invited again after he announced his resignation, but sent the telegram instead.

"Leilani (his wife) and I sincerely appreciate your support and courage. It has never been more comforting to know that we have friends and supporters who are willing to speak out," Watt wrote.

Most people along the parade route seemed fully in favor of honoring Watt to express the community's appreciation for his actions that affected them and the nearby Olympic National Park.

"That's where everybody sort of identifies with Jim Watt, is that rather than having the park as a possession he wants to utilize it," said Larry Thornton, an auto parts and repair shop operator in Forks.

"Why spend our taxpayers' money, what little we have of it, and buy land you can't supervise anyway?" he asked. "The man probably has done as much for the parks and people as anyone."

Sheila Wahlgren, president of the Forks Chamber of Commerce, said very few people had written or called to criticize the idea of honoring Watt.

"We got one post card from some old guy in Florida telling us Watt had destroyed the parks," she said. "But then we got one from a woman in Alaska saying she thought it was terrific and asking us for a button, so we had to make some."

Watt frequently had been under fire since his appointment when President Reagan took office. His recent comment about a coal advisory panel being composed of "a black ... a woman, two Jews, and a cripple" brought a final barrage of criticism.

Maris and others say they particularly appreciate Watt's policy of rehabilitating the national park system's most-used facilities and reducing efforts to expand the park through land purchases.

"People from back East don't realize how big the park is," Maris said. "It's as big or bigger than some of their states."

Demos may move up primaries

WASHINGTON (AP) — A plan to advance the start of the 1984 presidential primary season is being discussed by Democratic Party officials hoping to avoid a showdown with three states vying to hold the first pre-convention vote.

The plan to move up by a week the dates of the New Hampshire primary and Iowa caucuses would preserve the premier status of both states in the election season.

Moves toward such a compromise first came to light Friday, as the party's Compliance Review Commission met to consider plans for picking delegate selection plans.

But sources familiar with the arguments say many obstacles remain to solving the conflict.

"The chances are about 50-50 that it will happen," said one source who would speak only on the condition of anonymity.

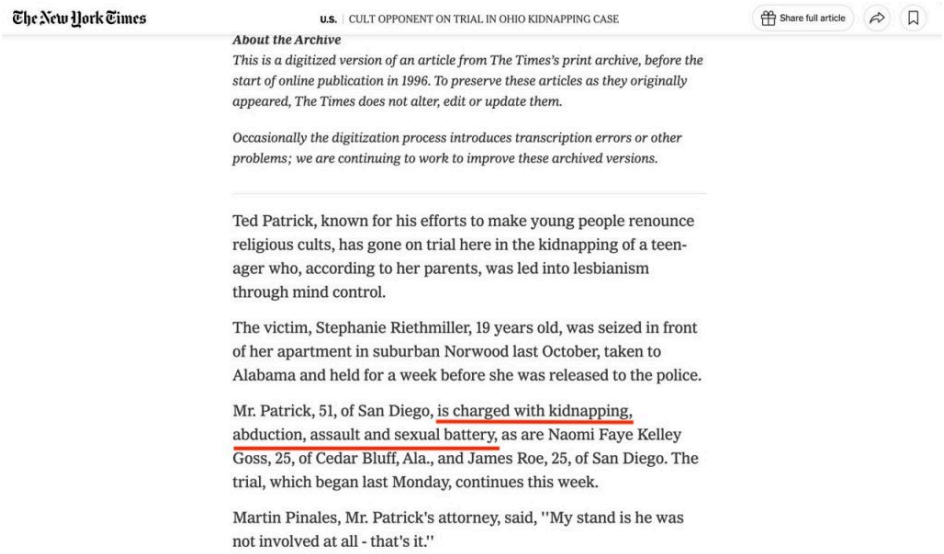
National party rules specify that Iowa's precinct caucuses must be held Feb. 27 and that New Hampshire hold its primary March 6. Both dates are exceptions to the the general rule that all delegate selection events be held between March 13 and June 12, 1984.

Christophers
FOOD & SPIRITS
QUICK LUNCHES
Soup and Spectacular Christophers Salad $1.99
Soup or Salad and Sandwich $2.95
11 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Located around the corner from The Landing
823 E. Hargrove Rd. 556-9540
Cut coupons, not your budget.

"A NEW ORLEANS TRADITION"
Storyville
Enjoy the FOOD and ENTERTAINMENT this week at STORYVILLE.

NURRY SALE ENDS OCT. 22!
COLOR TILE
TILE • PAINT • WALLCOVERINGS
1/2 PRICE SALE!
FREE WITH PURCHASE! PAINT, CAULK, STANLEY TOOLS. Ask at counter for details!

Screenshot of an article dated April 19, 1982, from The New York Times website archive [19]



The New York Times | U.S. | CULT OPPONENT ON TRIAL IN OHIO KIDNAPPING CASE | Share full article

About the Archive

This is a digitized version of an article from The Times's print archive, before the start of online publication in 1996. To preserve these articles as they originally appeared, The Times does not alter, edit or update them.

Occasionally the digitization process introduces transcription errors or other problems; we are continuing to work to improve these archived versions.

Ted Patrick, known for his efforts to make young people renounce religious cults, has gone on trial here in the kidnapping of a teenager who, according to her parents, was led into lesbianism through mind control.

The victim, Stephanie Riethmiller, 19 years old, was seized in front of her apartment in suburban Norwood last October, taken to Alabama and held for a week before she was released to the police.

Mr. Patrick, 51, of San Diego, is charged with kidnapping, abduction, assault and sexual battery, as are Naomi Faye Kelley Goss, 25, of Cedar Bluff, Ala., and James Roe, 25, of San Diego. The trial, which began last Monday, continues this week.

Martin Pinales, Mr. Patrick's attorney, said, "My stand is he was not involved at all - that's it."

Screenshot of an article dated April 19, 1982, from The New York Times website archive

In another case, several charges were brought against Patrick at once: second-degree kidnaping, unlawful imprisonment, conspiracy, and third-degree assault. The charges were brought in New York by a member of the New Testament Missionary Fellowship, who claimed he had been forced into a car while walking to a prayer meeting. Patrick asserted the fellowship member was "rescued." [20]

Jesus communes

Many wary parents nationwide are seeking to save children from them

EDITOR'S NOTE — Newsbriefs of the Jesus communes say they are saving young people for Christ. But parents say their children are being turned into programmed robots and are making attempts to rescue the youngsters. Who are the saviors?

By RODNEY ANGOVE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Parents from across the United States have organized to "rescue our children from the Jesus communes," says a California who is their nacional coordinator.

Ted Patrick, a former community relations officer for California Gov. Ronald Reagan, says the group he coordinates is called "The Parents Committee to Free Our Sons and Daughters from the Children of God — FREECOG."

About 300 parents are seeking to locate youths in communes such as those run by the Children of God — COG — "and get them back on the right track," Patrick said.

But commune leaders hold different views about "the right track," and they resent what they consider is undue parental interference. One commune has filed a $1.1 million libel and slander action against Patrick and three FREECOG parents.

Patrick himself has been charged with second-degree kidnaping, unlawful imprisonment, conspiracy and third-degree assault. The charges were brought in New York last month by a member of the New Testament Missionary Fellowship, who claimed he was forced into a car while walking to a prayer meeting. Patrick said the fellowship member was "rescued."

The tug-of-war between the parents and the communes has transcended theological considerations and touches on questions of family, freedom and rights to property.

FREECOG parents say they favor the resurgence of religion among youth, that religion has held an important place in their families.

But they describe themselves as religiously sophisticated, and they do oppose the type of communes which they say try to dominate their children to the exclusion of normal parental relations.

The Jesus movement over-all is seen by many church scholars as a sign of spiritual vitality which helps many youths escape the drug scene and solve other problems. They also feel it may be pumping life into organized religion.

Perhaps the best known in the movement is the Children of God, founded by David Berg, who preaches that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent.

Berg, who reportedly lives in seclusion in Europe, has been described by his followers as a modern prophet.

Children of God communes have been established in Australia, Japan, South Korea and Thailand.

In California, the COG communes have existed for from 10 to three in only the past few months, according to 23-year-old "Micah" Farmer. Micah is his adopted Biblical name and he's an adviser to one COG ranch near King City in west-central California.

But COG is not the only target of FREECOG, said Patrick in California alone there are about 40 communes of all types, and FREECOG is concerned about many of them, he said.

In about two years, Patrick said, he has gathered statements from about 400 youths who have turned their backs on the communes. Last year he said, he quit his state job to devote full time to FREECOG.

Patrick said the youths almost always told him "they had been programmed to do anything their leaders ordered." He controls their testimony, on recorded tapes, supports the parental complaint that communes completely dominate their children — brain, body and bank account.

Parents say their children are difficult to locate and are difficult to visit privately. Parents complain that their children sign over cars and savings and often write home for more money.

Many young people say they are taught to go against their parents, their family churches, and the schools and the government," Patrick said.

The tapes, used in persuading other youths to quit, are made after "deprogramming" sessions.

"Deprogramming" is the process, sometimes lasting days, through which Patrick and FREECOG parents try to convince a youth he should abandon a commune. It consists of arguments in which Patrick, himself a former evangelist organizer, tries to demolish the youth's faith in the commune's leaders.

He said most youths maintain they have been "hypnotized" and "brainwashed."

One youth, Pat Alexander Jr. 23, of Masontown, Pa., said recently: "They put me under mass hypnosis and mesmerism.

"I'm a living chainsaw. I would never have done the things I did. They took my mind away."

Eli Stone of San Diego said her daughter Barbara, 20, spent only one day and one night with commune recruiters. When Barbara came home, she told her parents that they tried to program me. The leader told me, 'If I tell you to go and kill your parents, you will do it.' I told him I would not do it. He said, 'Then you are not ready.'"

There are still laws in this country," Mrs. Alamo said. "There are no bars on our windows. Three kids can come and go, and do."

A British businessman, Kenneth Frampton, tells a different kind of story. He said in a recent newspaper interview that he gave the COG free use of a warehouse and three other buildings in Bromley, England, "in return, they have stolen two of my sons from me."

Shiloh said the COG is basically "giving kids a new way of life in which they can be happy. Please come and see for yourself. We're really not trying to hide anything, and we're not afraid of anything."

Patrick said the COG often invites newsmen and others, and "they put on a beautiful show. But you have to interview the kids, and they won't let me do that. I know the questions to ask."

Shiloh said, "Our main problem is that parents blame us for the way their children were before they joined. A lot of them were living away from their parents before we got them."

As for donations, she said: "Yes, basically we believe in sharing, like in the Book of Acts. Most kids don't have much. But some do — cars and savings, and they share it."

Meath believes parents are protesting "because what we're doing takes a 100 per cent commitment, to Christ. A youth accepts it. Some parents find it hard to accept. It's a selfish love for the child. A kind of possessiveness. They find it hard to take second place to God."

The much-copied COG was started by evangelist David Berg, now about 55 years old. Shiloh said Berg is no longer very active, although he still sends out "instructions, opinions and suggestions" signed "Moses."

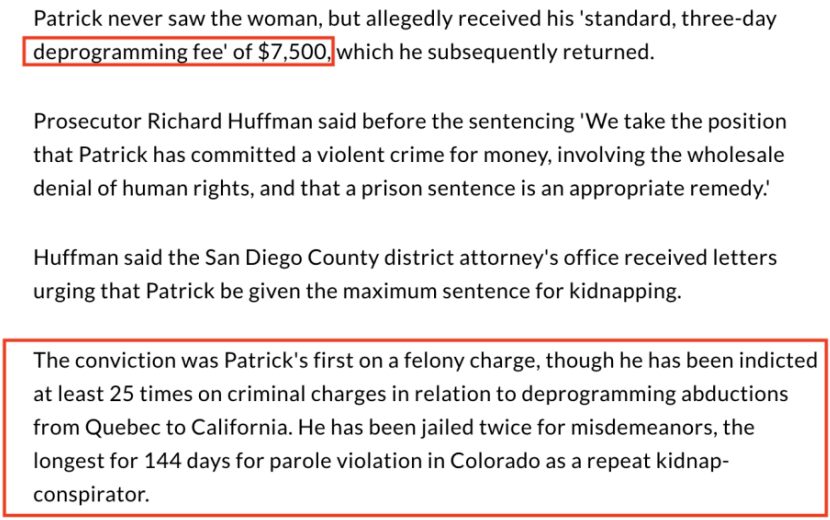
BUILD AMERICA WITH US
Wickes
REMODELING REVOLUTION!
PRICES GOOD JUNE 7 THRU JUNE 12
A TIME PAYMENT PLAN FOR ALL HOME NEEDS
Installed service
Woodgrain Vinylface®
PANELING
Simulated woodgrain print on 2 mil vinyl, is adhered to 3-ply hardwood. It's beautiful and durable
Bleached Walnut
Tudor Walnut
Wormy Chestnut
YOUR CHOICE
$5.98
4mm 4'x8' Sht.
Reg. $6.98
SAVE $1.00
Over 30 different panels in stock, including:
MADERIA LAUAN
12" x 12" Pebble Tone
CEILING TILE
Give any room in your home an uplift by installing a good-looking, new ceiling. You can do it yourself easily and economically with Bride-White ceiling tiles from Wickes.
18¢
Reg. 10c
ROUGHHEWN SUSPENDED CEILING PANELS
An easy way to give any room a new look. Washable surface won't warp, absorbs about 60% of the room noise.
$1.49 2'x4' Panel
Reg. $1.54
ARROW HEAVY DUTY STAPLE GUN

Screenshot of an article dated June 4, 1972, from The Daily News, achieved version 20

A California woman called the police to report that Ted Patrick had tied her to a bed in a hotel room and left her blindfolded alone for two days as part of deprogramming. Her story was torture beyond anything previously blamed on deprogrammers. When the story hit the news, Ted Patrick's already controversial reputation was dealt a blow from which he never recovered. People regarded him as an uneducated psychopath masquerading as a healer, no different from the alleged cult leaders he was fighting against. When yet another case came to court, Patrick lost a major lawsuit and his own

freedom: the inventor of deprogramming was sent to prison for one year.

Unsurprisingly, Ted Patrick's activities resulted in all sorts of criminal investigations against him, but he continued to fight off the cases that prosecutors opened against him. Even if he lost a case, he never intended to terminate his anticult activities. [21]



Patrick never saw the woman, but allegedly received his 'standard, three-day deprogramming fee' of $7,500, which he subsequently returned.

Prosecutor Richard Huffman said before the sentencing 'We take the position that Patrick has committed a violent crime for money, involving the wholesale denial of human rights, and that a prison sentence is an appropriate remedy.'

Huffman said the San Diego County district attorney's office received letters urging that Patrick be given the maximum sentence for kidnapping.

The conviction was Patrick's first on a felony charge, though he has been indicted at least 25 times on criminal charges in relation to deprogramming abductions from Quebec to California. He has been jailed twice for misdemeanors, the longest for 144 days for parole violation in Colorado as a repeat kidnap-conspirator.

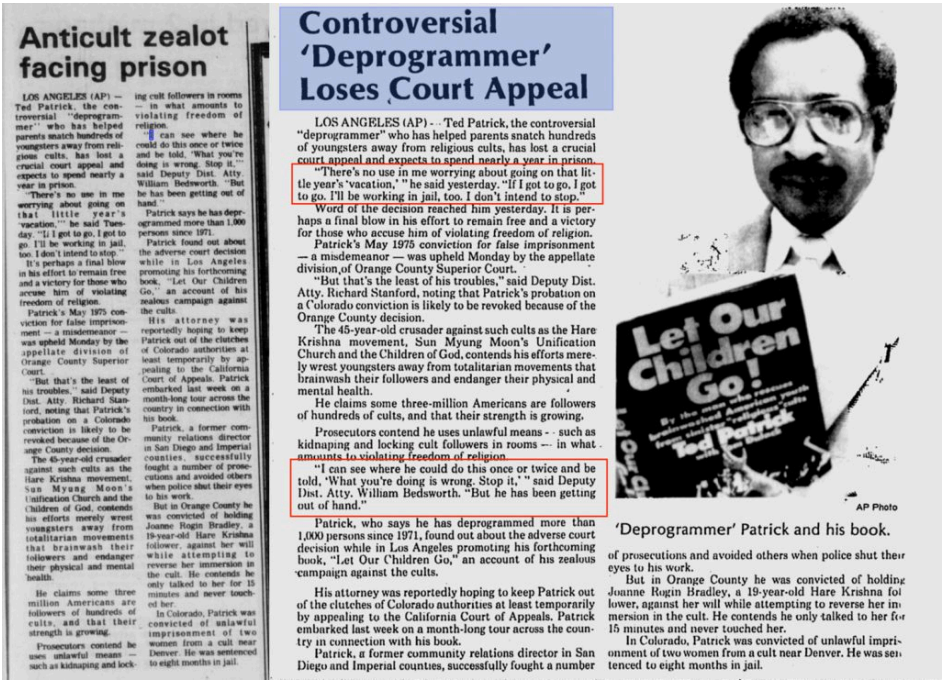
Screenshot of an article dated September 26, 1980, from UPI website archive

Despite prosecutors' allegations that he used illegal means such as kidnapping and locking followers of "cults" in closed premises, which is tantamount to violating religious freedom and a number of other democratic rights, after serving his

sentences Patrick resumed his activities again and again and continued to forcibly deprogram people.

“I can see where he could do this once or twice and be told, ‘What you’re doing is wrong. Stop it’,” said Deputy District Attorney, William Bedsworth. “But he has been getting out of hand.”

After losing a crucial court appeal and expecting to spend nearly a year in prison, Patrick himself said the following: “There’s no use in me worrying about going on that little year’s ‘vacation.’ If I got to go, I got to go. I’ll be working in jail, too. I don’t intend to stop.”



Anticult zealot facing prison

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ted Patrick, the controversial "deprogrammer" who has helped parents snatch hundreds of youngsters away from religious cults, has lost a crucial court appeal and expects to spend nearly a year in prison.

"There's no use in me worrying about going on that little year's 'vacation,'" he said Tuesday. "If I got to go, I got to go. I'll be working in jail, too. I don't intend to stop."

It's perhaps a final blow in his effort to remain free and a victory for those who accuse him of violating freedom of religion.

Patrick's May 1975 conviction for false imprisonment — a misdemeanor — was upheld Monday by the appellate division of Orange County Superior Court.

"But that's the least of his troubles," said Deputy Dist. Atty. Richard Stanford, noting that Patrick's probation on a Colorado conviction is likely to be revoked because of the Orange County decision.

The 45-year-old crusader against such cults as the Hare Krishna movement, Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church and the Children of God, contends his efforts merely wrest youngsters away from totalitarian movements that brainwash their followers and endanger their physical and mental health.

He claims some three million Americans are followers of hundreds of cults, and that their strength is growing.

Prosecutors contend he uses unlawful means — such as kidnaping and locking cult followers in rooms — in what amounts to violating freedom of religion.

"I can see where he could do this once or twice and be told, 'What you're doing is wrong. Stop it,'" said Deputy Dist. Atty. William Bedsworth. "But he has been getting out of hand."

Patrick says he has deprogrammed more than 1,000 persons since 1971.

Patrick found out about the adverse court decision while in Los Angeles promoting his forthcoming book, "Let Our Children Go," an account of his zealous campaign against the cults.

His attorney was reportedly hoping to keep Patrick out of the clutches of Colorado authorities at least temporarily by appealing to the California Court of Appeals. Patrick embarked last week on a month-long tour across the country in connection with his book.

Patrick, a former community relations director in San Diego and Imperial counties, successfully fought a number of prosecutions and avoided others when police shut their eyes to his work.

But in Orange County he was convicted of holding Joanne Rogin Bradley, a 19-year-old Hare Krishna follower, against her will while attempting to reverse her immersion in the cult. He contends he only talked to her for 15 minutes and never touched her.

In Colorado, Patrick was convicted of unlawful imprisonment of two women from a cult near Denver. He was sentenced to eight months in jail.

Controversial 'Deprogrammer' Loses Court Appeal

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Ted Patrick, the controversial "deprogrammer" who has helped parents snatch hundreds of youngsters away from religious cults, has lost a crucial court appeal and expects to spend nearly a year in prison.

"There's no use in me worrying about going on that little year's 'vacation,' " he said yesterday. "If I got to go, I got to go. I'll be working in jail, too. I don't intend to stop."

Word of the decision reached him yesterday. It is perhaps a final blow in his effort to remain free and a victory for those who accuse him of violating freedom of religion.

Patrick's May 1975 conviction for false imprisonment — a misdemeanor — was upheld Monday by the appellate division of Orange County Superior Court.

"But that's the least of his troubles," said Deputy Dist. Atty. Richard Stanford, noting that Patrick's probation on a Colorado conviction is likely to be revoked because of the Orange County decision.

The 45-year-old crusader against such cults as the Hare Krishna movement, Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church and the Children of God, contends his efforts merely wrest youngsters away from totalitarian movements that brainwash their followers and endanger their physical and mental health.

He claims some three-million Americans are followers of hundreds of cults, and that their strength is growing.

Prosecutors contend he uses unlawful means - such as kidnaping and locking cult followers in rooms — in what amounts to violating freedom of religion.

"I can see where he could do this once or twice and be told, 'What you're doing is wrong. Stop it,' " said Deputy Dist. Atty. William Bedsworth. "But he has been getting out of hand."

Patrick, who says he has deprogrammed more than 1,000 persons since 1971, found out about the adverse court decision while in Los Angeles promoting his forthcoming book, "Let Our Children Go," an account of his zealous campaign against the cults.

His attorney was reportedly hoping to keep Patrick out of the clutches of Colorado authorities at least temporarily by appealing to the California Court of Appeals. Patrick embarked last week on a month-long tour across the country in connection with his book.

Patrick, a former community relations director in San Diego and Imperial counties, successfully fought a number of prosecutions and avoided others when police shut their eyes to his work.

But in Orange County he was convicted of holding Joanne Rogin Bradley, a 19-year-old Hare Krishna follower, against her will while attempting to reverse her immersion in the cult. He contends he only talked to her for 15 minutes and never touched her.

In Colorado, Patrick was convicted of unlawful imprisonment of two women from a cult near Denver. He was sentenced to eight months in jail.

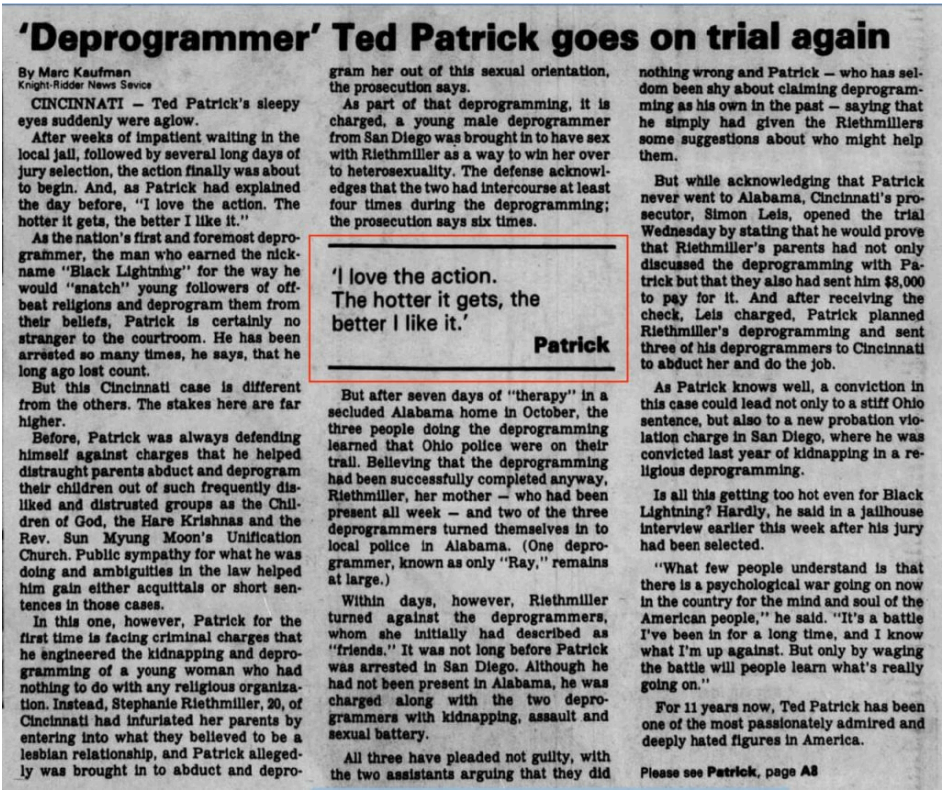
AP Photo

'Deprogrammer' Patrick and his book.

Screenshot of an article dated May 5, 1976, from The Evening Independent, achieved version [22]

Screenshot of an article dated May 06, 1976, from Pomona Progress Bulletin achieve website [23]

Or here's another quote from his interview for a newspaper: "I love the action. The hotter it gets, the better I like it."



'Deprogrammer' Ted Patrick goes on trial again

By Marc Kaufman
Knight-Ridder News Sevice

CINCINNATI — Ted Patrick's sleepy eyes suddenly were aglow.

After weeks of impatient waiting in the local jail, followed by several long days of jury selection, the action finally was about to begin. And, as Patrick had explained the day before, "I love the action. The hotter it gets, the better I like it."

As the nation's first and foremost deprogrammer, the man who earned the nickname "Black Lightning" for the way he would "snatch" young followers of offbeat religions and deprogram them from their beliefs, Patrick is certainly no stranger to the courtroom. He has been arrested so many times, he says, that he long ago lost count.

But this Cincinnati case is different from the others. The stakes here are far higher.

Before, Patrick was always defending himself against charges that he helped distraught parents abduct and deprogram their children out of such frequently disliked and distrusted groups as the Children of God, the Hare Krishnas and the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church. Public sympathy for what he was doing and ambiguities in the law helped him gain either acquittals or short sentences in those cases.

In this one, however, Patrick for the first time is facing criminal charges that he engineered the kidnapping and deprogramming of a young woman who had nothing to do with any religious organization. Instead, Stephanie Riethmiller, 20, of Cincinnati had infuriated her parents by entering into what they believed to be a lesbian relationship, and Patrick allegedly was brought in to abduct and deprogram her out of this sexual orientation, the prosecution says.

As part of that deprogramming, it is charged, a young male deprogrammer from San Diego was brought in to have sex with Riethmiller as a way to win her over to heterosexuality. The defense acknowledges that the two had intercourse at least four times during the deprogramming; the prosecution says six times.

'I love the action. The hotter it gets, the better I like it.'

Patrick

But after seven days of "therapy" in a secluded Alabama home in October, the three people doing the deprogramming learned that Ohio police were on their trail. Believing that the deprogramming had been successfully completed anyway, Riethmiller, her mother — who had been present all week — and two of the three deprogrammers turned themselves in to local police in Alabama. (One deprogrammer, known as only "Ray," remains at large.)

Within days, however, Riethmiller turned against the deprogrammers, whom she initially had described as "friends." It was not long before Patrick was arrested in San Diego. Although he had not been present in Alabama, he was charged along with the two deprogrammers with kidnapping, assault and sexual battery.

All three have pleaded not guilty, with the two assistants arguing that they did nothing wrong and Patrick — who has seldom been shy about claiming deprogramming as his own in the past — saying that he simply had given the Riethmillers some suggestions about who might help them.

But while acknowledging that Patrick never went to Alabama, Cincinnati's prosecutor, Simon Leis, opened the trial Wednesday by stating that he would prove that Riethmiller's parents had not only discussed the deprogramming with Patrick but that they also had sent him $8,000 to pay for it. And after receiving the check, Leis charged, Patrick planned Riethmiller's deprogramming and sent three of his deprogrammers to Cincinnati to abduct her and do the job.

As Patrick knows well, a conviction in this case could lead not only to a stiff Ohio sentence, but also to a new probation violation charge in San Diego, where he was convicted last year of kidnapping in a religious deprogramming.

Is all this getting too hot even for Black Lightning? Hardly, he said in a jailhouse interview earlier this week after his jury had been selected.

"What few people understand is that there is a psychological war going on now in the country for the mind and soul of the American people," he said. "It's a battle I've been in for a long time, and I know what I'm up against. But only by waging the battle will people learn what's really going on."

For 11 years now, Ted Patrick has been one of the most passionately admired and deeply hated figures in America.

Please see **Patrick**, page **A8**

Generic English Teacher @TabitaSurge · Jan 8, 2023
Here's how de-programming from kidnapper Ted Patrick works: corrective rape for 'suspected' lesbians
'Deprogrammer' Ted Patrick goes on trial again
By Marc Kaufman
Knight-Ridder News Sevice
CINCINNATI — Ted Patrick's sleepy eyes suddenly were aglow.
After weeks of impatient waiting in the local jail, followed by several long days of jury selection, the action finally was about to begin. And, as Patrick had explained the day before, "I love the action. The hotter it gets, the better I like it."
As the nation's first and foremost deprogrammer, the man who earned the nickname "Black Lightning" for the way he would "snatch" young followers of offbeat religions and deprogram them from their beliefs, Patrick is certainly no stranger to the courtroom. He has been arrested so many times, he says, that he long ago lost count.
But this Cincinnati case is different from the others. The stakes here are far higher.
Before, Patrick was always defending himself against charges that he helped distraught parents abduct and deprogram their children out of such frequently disliked and distrusted groups as the Children of God, the Hare Krishnas and the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church. Public sympathy for what he was doing and ambiguities in the law helped him gain either acquittals or short sentences in those cases.
In this one, however, Patrick for the first time is facing criminal charges that he engineered the kidnapping and deprogramming of a young woman who had nothing to do with any religious organization. Instead, Stephanie Riethmiller, 20, of Cincinnati had infuriated her parents by entering into what they believed to be a lesbian relationship, and Patrick allegedly was brought in to abduct and deprogram her out of this sexual orientation, the prosecution says.
As part of that deprogramming, it is charged, a young male deprogrammer from San Diego was brought in to have sex with Riethmiller as a way to win her over to heterosexuality. The defense acknowledges that the two had intercourse at least four times during the deprogramming; the prosecution says six times.
'I love the action. The hotter it gets, the better I like it.' Patrick
But after seven days of "therapy" in a secluded Alabama home in October, the three people doing the deprogramming learned that Ohio police were on their trail. Believing that the deprogramming had been successfully completed anyway, Riethmiller, her mother — who had been present all week — and two of the three deprogrammers turned themselves in to local police in Alabama. (One deprogrammer, known as only "Ray," remains at large.)
Within days, however, Riethmiller turned against the deprogrammers, whom she initially had described as "friends." It was not long before Patrick was arrested in San Diego. Although he had not been present in Alabama, he was charged along with the two deprogrammers with kidnapping, assault and sexual battery.
All three have pleaded not guilty, with the two assistants arguing that they did nothing wrong and Patrick — who has seldom been shy about claiming deprogramming as his own in the past — saying that he simply had given the Riethmillers some suggestions about who might help them.
But while acknowledging that Patrick never went to Alabama, Cincinnati's prosecutor, Simon Leis, opened the trial Wednesday by stating that he would prove that Riethmiller's parents had not only discussed the deprogramming with Patrick but that they also had sent him $8,000 to pay for it. And after receiving the check, Leis charged, Patrick planned Riethmiller's deprogramming and sent three of his deprogrammers to Cincinnati to abduct her and do the job.
As Patrick knows well, a conviction in this case could lead not only to a stiff Ohio sentence, but also to a new probation violation charge in San Diego, where he was convicted last year of kidnapping in a religious deprogramming.
Is all this getting too hot even for Black Lightning? Hardly, he said in a jailhouse interview earlier this week after his jury had been selected.
"What few people understand is that there is a psychological war going on now in the country for the mind and soul of the American people," he said. "It's a battle I've been in for a long time, and I know what I'm up against. But only by waging the battle will people learn what's really going on."
For 11 years now, Ted Patrick has been one of the most passionately admired and deeply hated figures in America.
Please see Patrick, page A8
3
36
153
10K
Generic English Teacher @TabitaSurge · Jan 8, 2023
Look at the language in the godawful trial: 'a concerned mother who felt she had failed due to the sexual preference of her daughter.' Exactly the same logic as the article. Exactly the same logic as that Freeman piece in The Times yesterday
Both Sides Now Await Jury Verdict In Riethmiller Trial
BY BARBARA ZIGLI
Enquirer Reporter
Hamilton County Prosecutor Simon L. Leis delivered an impassioned plea for an individual's right to choose his or her own way of life Thursday in closing arguments in the Stephanie Riethmiller abduction trial.
The jury received the case at 12:30 p.m. and was sent home for the night after considering the case for almost four hours.
Attorneys for the defendants attacked Leis' decision to grant immunity to Miss Riethmiller's parents who, they pointed out, "set the ball rolling" by paying for their daughter to be deprogrammed.
On the inside
• Another deprogramming case, Page E-2.
In addition, Roe is charged with six counts of sexual battery for having sex with Miss Riethmiller in what prosecutors argued was an attempt to attract her to heterosexuality. The trial in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court has run for nine days.
Leis described the case as one of "a concerned mother who felt she had failed because of the sexual preference of her daughter."
hired by the parents, cannot take these rights away."
He accused the defense of attempting to try Miss Riethmiller, Miss Thiemann, the Norwood police and even himself.
He was referring to defense criticisms of his decision to grant immunity to Miss Riethmiller's parents in return for their testimony.
IN HIS closing arguments, Thomas Miller, Roe's attorney, hit hard on the issue. "I suggest there ought to be some other people sitting in this trial, and their names ought to be William Riethmiller and Martha Riethmiller. They were the ones who set the ball
Patrick, on the other hand, is "a mercenary for hire. He received 8,000 hard-earned dollars," Leis said.
"What love does this man have for that daughter, Stephanie? No feelings whatsoever. What this man did was that he took advantage of distraught parents."
BETTMAN LATER told the jury that the granting of immunity should not influence their decision.
Martin Pinales, Patrick's attorney, argued that his involvement in the Riethmiller case was not proved and consisted of mere "speculation" by prosecutors.
necessity." They had planned to argue that the abduction of Miss Riethmiller was necessary because she was in danger from "mind control."
MRS. GOSS' lawyer, Harry Hellings Jr., skated close to the forbidden defense in his closing arguments as he repealed the evidence about Miss Riethmiller's increasingly strong relationship with Miss Thiemann and the personality changes observed by Miss Riethmiller's mother.
Leis repeatedly objected. When Bettman finally gave his instructions to the jury, he told them specifically to ignore the issues of
Miller called Miss Riethmiller a "jilted lover" and pointed out that she had not officially complained about the sexual episodes until after she talked with Norwood police. He also argued that the sexual activity occured in Alabama, so Ohio does not have jurisdiction.
MILLER SAID the young woman voluntarily had sex with Roe and, in fact, enticed him. "When you see somebody good-looking strutting around in a pair of bikini pants, you're going to have to be pretty strong to turn the other cheek."
Leis responded by saying Miss

Source: X account no longer available

It is hard to imagine the degree of cruelty and inhumanity the man possesses, and what kind of so-called “noble goal” of

saving people he pursues, to relentlessly continue earning money from kidnappings and bullying over and over again, despite numerous complaints, lawsuits, martyr tears of his victims, and their pleas to let them go free. Most likely, only psychiatrists would be able to answer these questions if they had a chance to examine him, since the activities of this anticultist and his agents went far beyond the generally accepted morality, ethics, laws and principles of humaneness. Would a sane person voluntarily support bullying and attacks on innocent people, thereby violating numerous laws? Only maniacs are capable of such things, who take delight in the very process of bullying and tormenting other people, at the same time receiving financial gain.

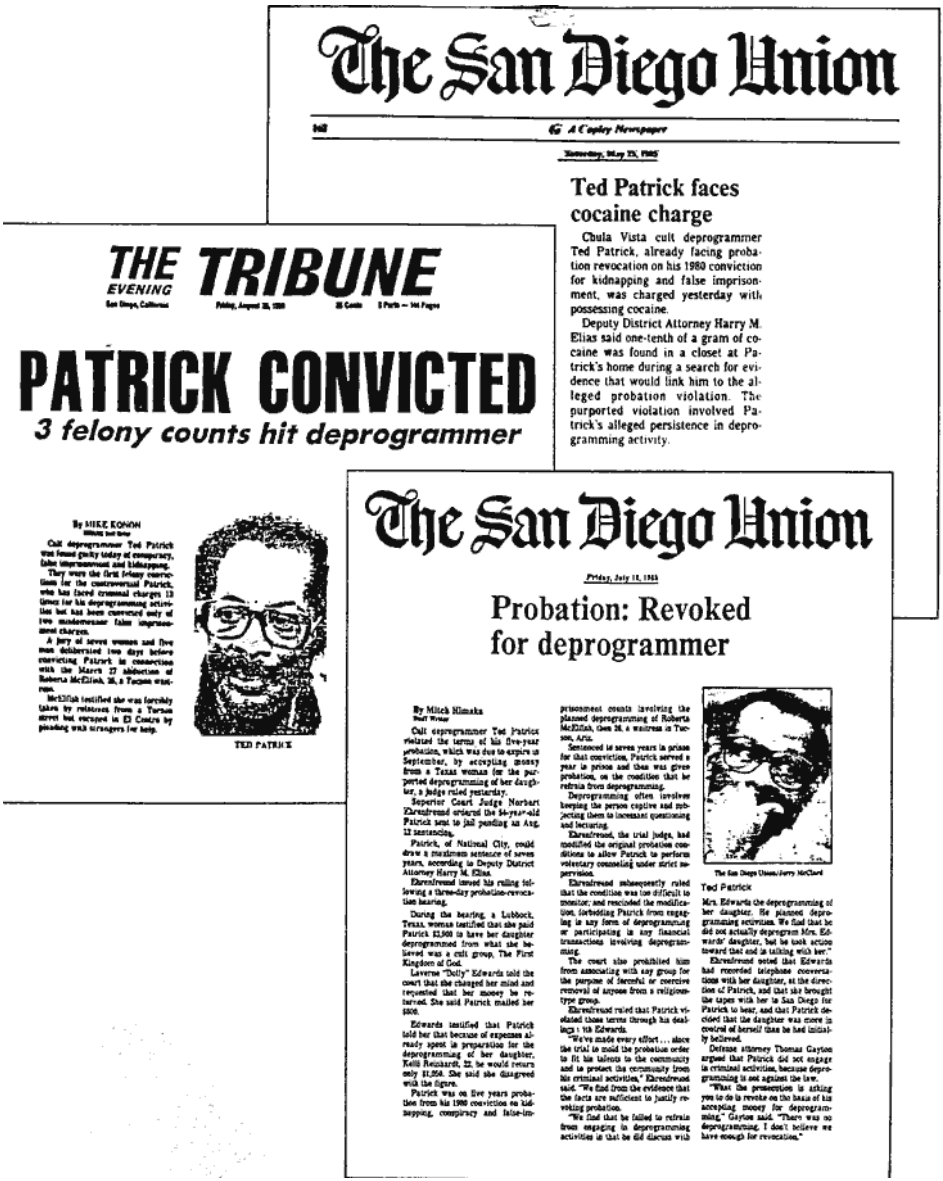
Screenshot of Ted Patrick's post on X, dated July 18, 2021 [24]. Ted Patrick is 91 years old.

"I'm back in action. Let's do some deprogramming. DMs are open."

Despite continuous lawsuits against Patrick, under any circumstances it is absolutely insane that the man has committed more than two thousand kidnappings, while his

punishment was only one year in prison. In fact, this happened in real life, quite recently, in a democratic country with democratic laws, which raises a number of questions: who was so successful in helping to lobby Patrick's narrative that people are brainwashed by "dangerous cults," and who benefited from his activities and the further spread of his network?

All trials against Ted Patrick and other deprogrammers merely ended with fines and a maximum prison term of one year. Meanwhile, for similar crimes committed not by deprogrammers, but by ordinary criminals who kidnapped people and inflicted violence on them, sentences are much longer.



The San Diego Union

A Copley Newspaper

Ted Patrick faces cocaine charge

Chula Vista cult deprogrammer Ted Patrick, already facing probation revocation on his 1980 conviction for kidnapping and false imprisonment, was charged yesterday with possessing cocaine.

Deputy District Attorney Harry M. Elias said one-tenth of a gram of cocaine was found in a closet at Patrick's home during a search for evidence that would link him to the alleged probation violation. The purported violation involved Patrick's alleged persistence in deprogramming activity.

THE EVENING TRIBUNE

PATRICK CONVICTED

3 felony counts hit deprogrammer

By MIKE KONON

Cult deprogrammer Ted Patrick was found guilty today of conspiracy, false imprisonment and kidnapping.

They were the first felony convictions for the controversial Patrick, who has faced criminal charges 13 times for his deprogramming activities but has been convicted only of two misdemeanor false imprisonment charges.

A jury of seven women and five men deliberated two days before convicting Patrick in connection with the March 27 abduction of Roberta McElrath, 26, a Tucson waitress.

McElrath testified she was forcibly taken by relatives from a Tucson street but escaped in El Centro by pleading with strangers for help.

TED PATRICK

The San Diego Union

Friday, July 12, 1985

Probation: Revoked for deprogrammer

By Mitch Himaka

Staff Writer

Cult deprogrammer Ted Patrick violated the terms of his five-year probation, which was due to expire in September, by accepting money from a Texas woman for the purported deprogramming of her daughter, a judge ruled yesterday.

Superior Court Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund ordered the 56-year-old Patrick sent to jail pending an Aug. 12 sentencing.

Patrick, of National City, could draw a maximum sentence of seven years, according to Deputy District Attorney Harry M. Elias.

Ehrenfreund issued his ruling following a three-day probation-revocation hearing.

During the hearing, a Lubbock, Texas, woman testified that she paid Patrick $1,500 to have her daughter deprogrammed from what she believed was a cult group, The First Kingdom of God.

Laverne "Dolly" Edwards told the court that she changed her mind and requested that her money be returned. She said Patrick mailed her $800.

Edwards testified that Patrick told her that because of expenses already spent in preparation for the deprogramming of her daughter, Kelli Reinhardt, 22, he would return only $1,250. She said she disagreed with the figure.

Patrick was on five years probation from his 1980 conviction on kidnapping, conspiracy and false-imprisonment counts involving the planned deprogramming of Roberta McElrath, then 26, a waitress in Tucson, Ariz.

Sentenced to seven years in prison for that conviction, Patrick served a year in prison and then was given probation, on the condition that he refrain from deprogramming.

Deprogramming often involves keeping the person captive and subjecting them to incessant questioning and lecturing.

Ehrenfreund, the trial judge, had modified the original probation conditions to allow Patrick to perform voluntary counseling under strict supervision.

Ehrenfreund subsequently ruled that the condition was too difficult to monitor; and rescinded the modification, forbidding Patrick from engaging in any form of deprogramming or participating in any financial transactions involving deprogramming.

The court also prohibited him from associating with any group for the purpose of forceful or coercive removal of anyone from a religious-type group.

Ehrenfreund ruled that Patrick violated those terms through his dealings with Edwards.

"We've made every effort ... since the trial to mold the probation order to fit his talents to the community and to protect the community from his criminal activities," Ehrenfreund said. "We find from the evidence that the facts are sufficient to justify revoking probation.

"We find that he failed to refrain from engaging in deprogramming activities in that he did discuss with

The San Diego Union/Jerry McClard

Ted Patrick

Mrs. Edwards the deprogramming of her daughter. He planned deprogramming services. We find that he did not actually deprogram Mrs. Edwards' daughter, but he took action toward that end in talking with her."

Ehrenfreund noted that Edwards had recorded telephone conversations with her daughter, at the direction of Patrick, and that she brought the tapes with her to San Diego for Patrick to hear, and that Patrick decided that the daughter was more in control of herself than he had initially believed.

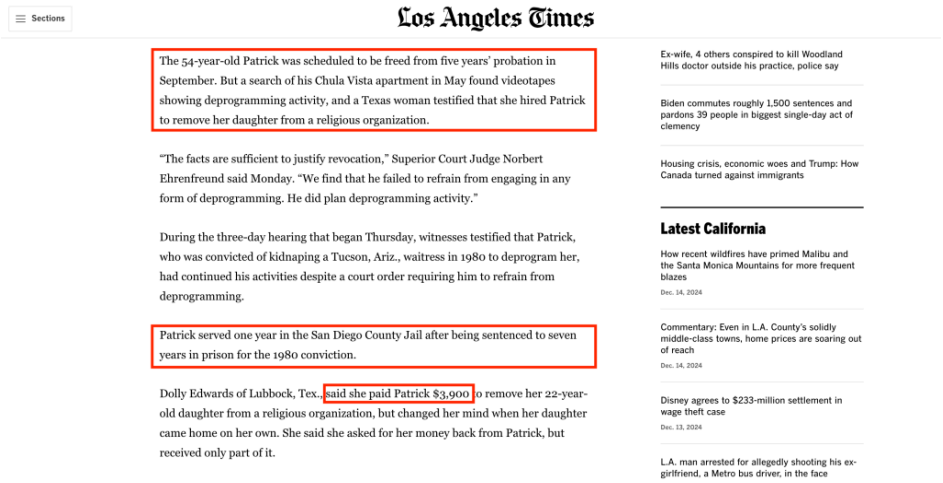
Defense attorney Thomas Gayton argued that Patrick did not engage in criminal activities, because deprogramming is not against the law.

"What the prosecution is asking you to do is revoke on the basis of his accepting money for deprogramming," Gayton said. "There was no deprogramming. I don't believe we have enough for revocation."

Screenshot from cesnur.org [25]

Why did this phenomenon continue to exist for such a long time while Patrick was conducting his activities and the stories

of victims who faced violence from deprogrammers were spreading, and why wasn't it condemned at the national level?



Sections

Los Angeles Times

The 54-year-old Patrick was scheduled to be freed from five years' probation in September. But a search of his Chula Vista apartment in May found videotapes showing deprogramming activity, and a Texas woman testified that she hired Patrick to remove her daughter from a religious organization.

"The facts are sufficient to justify revocation," Superior Court Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund said Monday. "We find that he failed to refrain from engaging in any form of deprogramming. He did plan deprogramming activity."

During the three-day hearing that began Thursday, witnesses testified that Patrick, who was convicted of kidnaping a Tucson, Ariz., waitress in 1980 to deprogram her, had continued his activities despite a court order requiring him to refrain from deprogramming.

Patrick served one year in the San Diego County Jail after being sentenced to seven years in prison for the 1980 conviction.

Dolly Edwards of Lubbock, Tex., said she paid Patrick $3,900 to remove her 22-year-old daughter from a religious organization, but changed her mind when her daughter came home on her own. She said she asked for her money back from Patrick, but received only part of it.

Ex-wife, 4 others conspired to kill Woodland Hills doctor outside his practice, police say

Biden commutes roughly 1,500 sentences and pardons 39 people in biggest single-day act of clemency

Housing crisis, economic woes and Trump: How Canada turned against immigrants

Latest California

How recent wildfires have primed Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains for more frequent blazes

Dec. 14, 2024

Commentary: Even in L.A. County's solidly middle-class towns, home prices are soaring out of reach

Dec. 14, 2024

Disney agrees to $233-million settlement in wage theft case

Dec. 13, 2024

L.A. man arrested for allegedly shooting his ex-girlfriend, a Metro bus driver, in the face

Screenshot of an article dated July 16, 1985, from Los Angeles Times website archive [26]

There have been instances where Ted Patrick was also even supported by law enforcement sometimes while in the act of committing felonies. In Mia Donovan's documentary "Deprogrammed" which chronicles the life of the serial kidnapper, Patrick recalls an incident where police were called to a hotel room after a neighbor had heard someone screaming for help. When the cops arrived, Patrick explained the situation, and despite the obvious false imprisonment going on with continued pleas for help coming from his subject, the officers sided with the deprogrammer and even tried to help him talk sense into his prisoner. [9]

It is utterly paradoxical that an obvious sadistic criminal managed to build a business where he didn't just receive huge amounts of money for abusing people, but also gained the support of law enforcement. However, this paradox ceased to be baffling once "The IMPACT" documentary revealed that anticult activists are not merely individuals obsessed with fighting small religious groups and various organizations. Instead, they represent a well-organized transnational criminal network. By employing manipulative methods to influence public consciousness, they recruit agents in mass media, law enforcement, and in many cases even in government bodies.

"Since their inception, these anticult organizations have repeatedly discredited themselves through anti-democratic and unlawful activities, which include deliberate spread of lies and slander, intentional incitement of violence, the use of destructive manipulative techniques, instigation of conflicts fueled by interreligious hatred, and targeted persecution of dissenting groups, sometimes even leading to physical assaults." [27]

"This particular characteristic of the strategy employed by all anticult organizations reveals their actual goals and intentions. They do not aim for an objective analysis of religious organizations to identify potentially dangerous ones. Instead, they are focused on discrediting and shutting down any

groups they choose as targets. They achieve this by violating basic rights and freedoms, employing a range of manipulative methods, smear rhetoric, and hate speech. Because their true goal is not the stigmatized groups they've discredited and persecuted, but the entire society that will be watching this public execution. Their goal is to carry out acts of information terrorism aimed at undermining society, destabilizing the situation in the country, and ultimately, destroying democracy."

A clear evidence of this is the organization CAN founded by Ted Patrick, whose destructive activities led to harassment, suffering and abuse of innocent people, as well as persecution and even genocide of peaceful American citizens in Waco, Texas. Members of CAN were directly involved in this tragic event that left an indelible mark of grief and mourning in the hearts of Americans and the global community. The tragedy also marked the triumphant beginning of a broader plan to undermine democracy, not only in the United States, but worldwide.

Of course, a detailed account of CAN's activities, its ties to the main ideological hub of anticultism — RACIRS (the Russian Association of Centers for the Study of Religions and Sects), as well as the role of its activists in brutal dehumanization and genocide of Chinese citizens, particularly followers of Falun

Gong, require a separate article which we will soon publish on our website.

In conclusion, it is worth emphasizing the immense harm and sorrow inflicted on humanity by the phenomenon of deprogramming. This favored tool of those who disguise themselves under the banner of so-called anticult activity, but in reality operate as an international criminal network, has since spread across the globe, leaving its tragic mark on the lives of millions of people, many of whom, unfortunately, lost their lives.

The entire practice of deprogramming was born under slogans like “Let’s protect children!”, “Save kids from terrible dangerous cults!”, “Defend people from brainwashing!”, etc. Yet, in reality, anticultists themselves are the ones who abuse people and harm children. From the stories cited above, it becomes clear that for anticultists, “rescuing” means physical violence and humiliation, continuous psychological terror against children and adults, and ruined lives and families. It is hell on Earth, deliberately orchestrated by anticultists for their victims with cruel relish.

Today, their dehumanizing tactics target not only religious and secular groups, but also political figures. Their actions cause destabilization of the geopolitical situation worldwide and

erosion of order in various countries. This is a matter of supranational security, and it demands intervention of the global community rather than isolated countries.

Tragically, the stories presented in this article are not the worst of what is happening. What's even more alarming is that those sadists, child murderers and rapists are still at large. And not just at large. They are invited by TV channels, participate in popular talk shows, and their opinions are heeded as those of respected experts.

Screenshots from the “Deprogrammed” documentary by Mia Donovan

Screenshots from the “Anasa Briggs show ft Ted Patrick” video on Ted Patricks YouTube Channel [28]

How can law enforcement and the public keep allowing these individuals to speak and spread their deadly poison up to this day, after committing crimes against humanity on such a horrifying scale?

For you to grasp the sheer monstrosity of the situation, let us offer a vivid parallel: imagine witnessing a murder in a crowded square. Amid a throng of people, an innocent woman walking with her child is suddenly seized by a deranged maniac wearing a badge that reads “Deprogramming Expert, Fighter

Against Dangerous Cults." He is neatly dressed, groomed, and outwardly appears to be an educated professional. However, right before your eyes, this seemingly respectable maniac ties up the woman, brutally abuses her, rapes her, and all the while hurls insults at her with a spittle-flecked, rage-contorted face. He calls her a "cultist" and accuses her of having a "brainwashed mind," screaming, "I'll save you from this dangerous cult so it couldn't manipulate you or drive you to suicide!" Or he yells, "Cults are a threat to our children!"

Then, after murdering his victim, he calmly puts the bloodied weapon into his pocket and walks away, ignoring the victim's hysterically crying child. Meanwhile, the crowd and the patrolling police officers simply pass by, indifferent to the atrocity and failing to recognize that this horrific act is murder, terrorism, and genocide.

Through their inaction and silent complicity, the crowd and the authorities enable those maniacs to continue broadcasting their vile messages about the "dangers of cults" to wide audiences. We attentively listen, nodding respectfully at their so-called "expert" opinions, saving their videos to our podcasts and bookmarks, and sharing them with our friends and acquaintances. Meanwhile, we fail to realize that by doing so, we allow this deadly poison to spread in our society, killing us and our children.

Until recently, before the release of “The IMPACT” documentary, the unprecedented and absurd impunity of anticultists’ actions across the world was addressed by only a handful of people. There were isolated court cases, individual hearings, and lone fighters for freedom and human rights who stood up for those unlawfully branded as “cultists” and subjected to genocide. Society lacked the missing pieces of the puzzle that could finally expose the cruel, blood-stained truth about those who proudly hold their heads high, adjust their “expert glasses,” and call themselves anticultists.

Now, their crimes have been brought to light. Although legal accountability and punishment await every individual involved in anticultism, society and investigative authorities must summon patience because, unfortunately, we are yet to uncover many more tragic stories and horrifying facts about the atrocities committed by the anticult maniacs. Meanwhile, as independent journalists whose duty is to defend democracy and human freedom to the very end, we will continue our investigation. Piece by piece, we will unravel this tangled web so that society has a chance to know the truth.

Sources:

1. https://bitterwinter.org/can-anti-cultists-deprogramming-and-crime-2-american-anti-cultism-and-deprogramming/
2. https://www.cesnur.org/2001/CAN.htm
3. https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/legal-and-political-magazines/cult-awareness-network
4. https://www.academia.edu/100635124/The_Cult_as_a_So
5. https://www.britannica.com/topic/Parents-Committee-to-Free-Our-Children-from-the-Children-of-God
6. https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/monograph?docid=b-9781472594518
7. https://www.xfamily.org/index.php/Ted_Patrick
8. https://www.standleague.org/hate-monitor/exposed/ted-patrick.html
9. https://cultstories.com/cults/ted-patrick
10. https://books.google.ro/books?id=bEiwxUad97IC&printsec=frontcover&hl=ru&source=gbs_
11. https://www.cesnur.org/2001/CAN/10/01.htm
12. https://www.cesnur.org/2001/CAN/10/Page08.jpg
13. https://www.facebook.com/thetedpatrick/
14. https://web.archive.org/web/20231102163419/https://news
nid=1338&dat=19760724&id=a3cwAAAAIBAJ&sjid=4PgDAAAAI
15. https://web.archive.org/web/20231028040903/https:/cont
16. https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1891&dat=19830528&id=0KQfAAAAIBAJ&pg=4176,589376
17. https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2002&dat=19800702&id=Q6wiAAAAIBAJ&sjid=GLIFAAAA
18. https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1817&dat=19831016&id=wTYdAAAAIBAJ&sjid=t6UEAAAAI

19. https://www.nytimes.com/1982/04/19/us/cult-opponent-on-trial-in-ohio-kidnapping-case.html
20. https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1696&dat=19720604&id=-r4aAAAAIBAJ&sjid=nkYEAAAAIBAJ&pg=7081,985037
21. https://www.upi.com/Archives/1980/09/26/A-police-chief-said-cult-deprogrammer-Ted-Patrick-was/4817338788800/
22. https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=950&dat=19760505&id=_kVQAAAAIBAJ&sjid=TlgDAAAAI
23. https://archive.org/details/pomona-progress-bulletin-1976-05-06/page/n9/mode/2up?q=%22I+can+see+where+he+could+do+this+once+or+twice+a
24. https://x.com/thetedpatrick/status/1416522728476090375
25. https://www.cesnur.org/2001/CAN/09a/01.htm
26. https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1985-07-16-me-6917-story.html
27. https://actfiles.org/the-impact-episode-3-ideological-center-of-anti-cult-organizations/
28. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaWhiJPmmTA

CAN deprogramming RACIRS Ted Patrick

PREVIOUS STORY

Centralized International Anticult Network of Agents Led by Alexander Dvorkin

NEXT STORY

KGB Agents in Cassocks of the Russian Orthodox Church. Pt.1

RELATED POSTS

August 29, 2024

The IMPACT. Episode 4. The New Face of Nazism: Anti-Cultism (Video & Text Version)

THE IMPACT

CHAPTER 3. ANTICULTISM AS A NEW FORM OF NAZISM Washington: I don't make the claim lightly that the enemy is reviving Nazism in a new form, nor do I casually compare the methods of the Nazis and anti-cultists.

March 31, 2025

Unification Church. The History of Persecution by Anticultists. Part 1

ARTICLES

In 1954, a year after the end of the Korean War, 34-year-old Sun Myung Moon registered in Seoul a new religious movement, the Unification Church, or the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of

August 30, 2024

Johannes Aagaard

ARTICLES

Johannes Aagaard (1928-2007): anticultist, priest of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church (Folkekirken) in Denmark, professor of missiology and ecumenical theology at the Aarhus University, Denmark. Johannes Aagaard and Friedrich Wilhelm

October 7, 2024

THE IMPACT. Episode 8. Who Activates School Shooters? Manipulative Methods Exposed? (Video & Text Version)

THE IMPACT

CHAPTER 6. HOW CIVIL WAR IS BEING FOMENTED IN AMERICA Washington: The Civilizational War would greatly benefit global anti-cultism on its path to global totalitarianism. However, let's return to the

The fact is that

World Christianity (HSA-UWC). Forty years later, in 1994,

Haack were pioneers in the fight against cults and sects after World War

facts that reflect the harsh reality of today. Now, facts indicate that

© 2024-2025 EXPOSING ANTI-CULT TERRORISM.
All material published on the site may be freely copied and used for distribution. When copying, please cite the source.

actfiles@protor